

## SNAKES AND THINGS

A sign on the door of Cunningham 2116 says "Snakes and other stupid things".

If you walk in you'll find it's no joke, for in cages and jars, and sometimes crawling around, are boa constrictors, rattlesnakes, garter snakes, rat, water, bull and milk snakes, plus some snapping turtles, frogs, salamanders and toads.

This is the preserve of Dr. Patrick Gregory, Biology's reptile expert.

Actually, Dr. Gregory doesn't consider snakes to be "stupid things", although they are rather stupid. "Their behaviour is pretty predictable. In fact, you could summarize their activity with two words: breeding and eating."

He observed that most people hate snakes because they feel their appearance is hideous, that they are creepy and crawly, and because some of them have a fatal bite.

Dr. Gregory, of course, loves snakes, but words failed him to explain why. "One reason is that I find their appearance beautiful and colorful".

They don't appear to play any major role in the workings of nature, but reason enough for their existence is "because they are there."

Aside from that "they're easy to handle, easy to care for, and as pets they are not demanding".

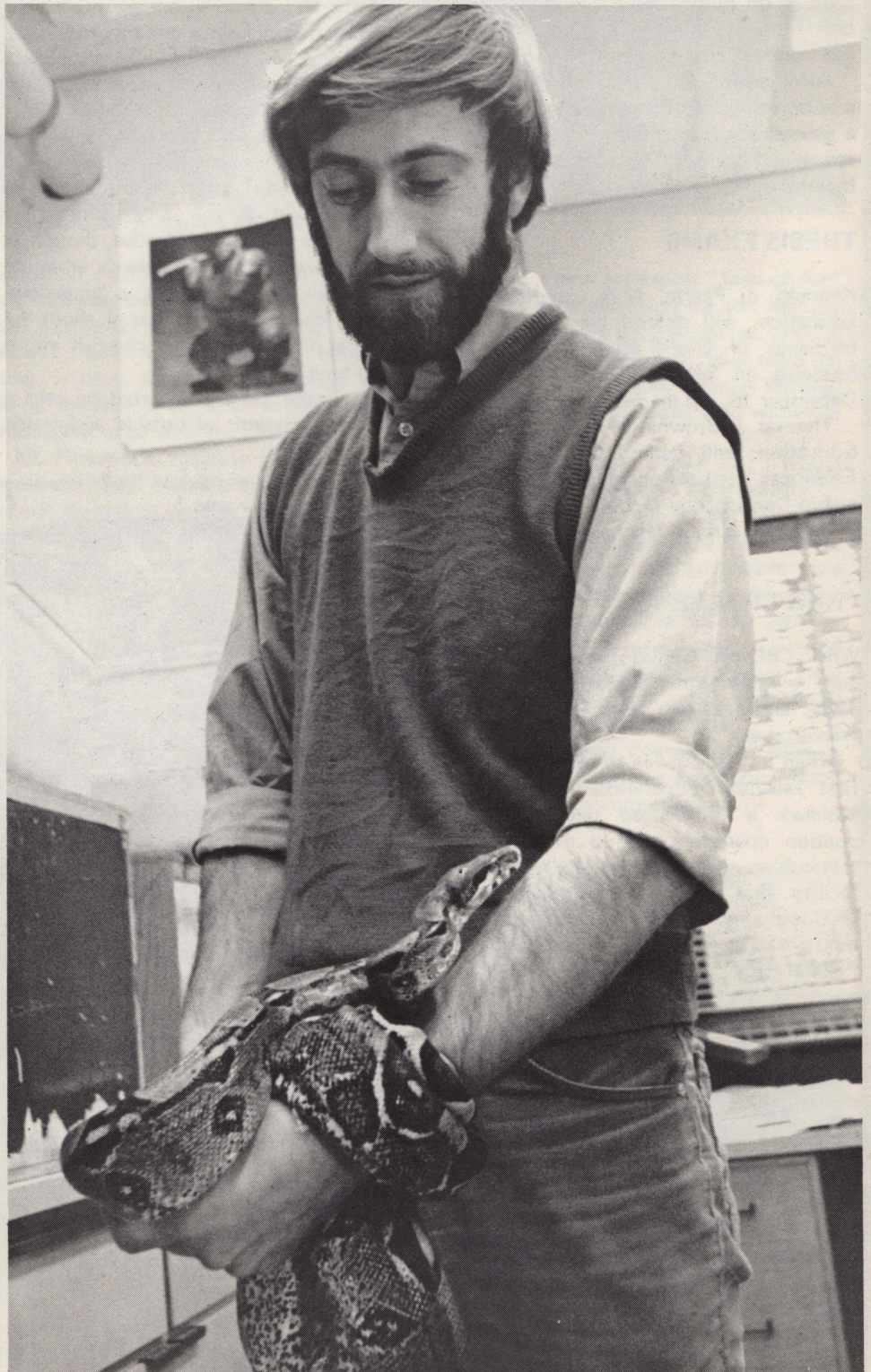
He said he also sympathizes with them because they are given the short end of the stick by people.

"People who say they love nature and take interest in the behaviour of birds and mammals are likely to stomp on the first snake they see."

Dr. Gregory said he often gets phone calls from people who have spotted a snake in their garden and are worried whether it is poisonous.

The only snakes found on the Island are harmless garter species (which are the subject of Dr. Gregory's current research) and the only poisonous ones in B.C. are rattlers in the Interior (which he plans to research).

"I must say this about Vancouver Island: snakes are more tolerated here than any-



*Dr. Gregory takes boa constrictor out for a little crawl.*



where else in Canada. A lot of people like having them in their gardens."

Dr. Gregory lets the harmless snakes crawl around now and again (this writer felt somewhat uneasy throughout the interview, even though he knew everything was caged) but he handles the rattlers warily and with tongs and doesn't get too cozy with the boa constrictors because they can give a nasty bite if they are in a bad mood.

Can the boa constrictors put the big squeeze on humans? "The big ones have been known to eat children, but the incidences of this are rare."

After posing for pictures, Dr. Gregory was having some difficulty in unwrapping a constrictor from his arm, and this person was heaving a sigh of relief as he breezed out the door.

## THESIS EXAMS

Kenneth J. Pearse, M.A. candidate in Education, will defend his thesis "Performance of Grade Eight Mathematics Students on Selected Discovery Tasks" December 19, 4 p.m., MacLaurin 225.

Thomas J. Browne, M.A. candidate in Education, will defend his thesis "An Empirical Verification of Fiedler's Leadership Contingency Model" on December 16 at 10:30 a.m. in MacLaurin 225.

## "NEW CHALLENGE"

When CBC pro Gerald Testar joined the staff of Hamilton's Mohawk College in 1968, all he had to work with was one television set.

When he left this fall to become UVic's first Television Supervisor, he had given Mohawk a full-fledged television production operation, set up a three-year curriculum, and designed an extensive facility that, among other things, has produced instructional series for international use, programming for the Federal Government, and provided five hours of live coverage of the Hamilton civic elections delivered to 70,000 local homes.

Now he is here "looking for a new challenge."

That he has, though he has much more to begin with than one television set. The department to which he is attached, Media and Technical Services (MATS), has just moved into spacious new quarters in the basement of the McPherson Library, and boasts two television studios which are at this moment without equipment.

Mr. Testar's job is to develop a wide base of expertise, equipment and image

resources (film and video tape) that will "respond to the diverse needs of the university."

He noted that up to now, with the equipment and space that has been available, the Faculty of Education here has pioneered the use of television as an instruction aid.

Its professors and student teachers have utilized closed-circuit video systems mainly "to mirror themselves, to examine their performance as teachers."

With Mr. Testar's presence and the introduction of colour cameras and movie equipment, MATS will be able to produce material for the special needs of departments like biology and visual arts.

"But it will do no good if a biology professor comes over to the studio and talks about, say, waterfowl resources. He might as well say the same thing to his class. What would be effective, though, is his wanting to show students what he would see while out in a waterfowl reserve. We would buy, rent or shoot the material he wanted and package it into a video tape."

Mr. Testar believes in what he calls a complete reservoir of outside and inside

picture information. To use just one aspect of visual media is comparable "to asking a teacher to use a vocabulary from six pages of the dictionary".

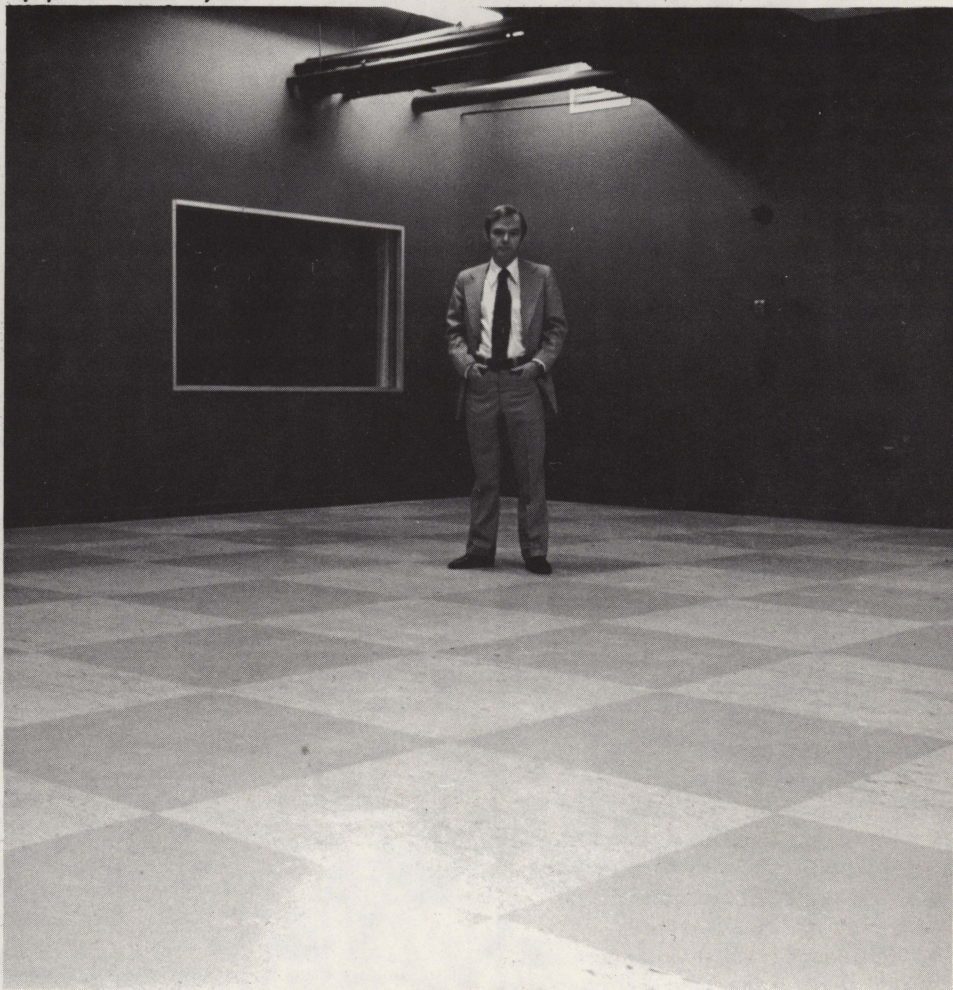
The 37-year-old native of Vancouver gained his bachelor of arts degree in speech from Pacific University in Oregon, and his master of fine arts, majoring in theatre arts, from the University of Portland.

After working as a free-lance writer and teaching high school in Slocan City, B.C., he joined CBC Television in 1962 as a researcher for the network programme "Quest". He later became Story Editor for the anthology drama series of "Playdate" and when the drama series "Quentin Durgens, M.P." began he became its Series Story Editor.

He also wrote original scripts for such television programmes as "Man at the Centre", "The Nature of Things" and "Other Voices", and produced and directed a variety of programmes.

During his six years with CBC, he also gained a diploma from the British Broadcasting Corporation for taking part in its Television Producer's Training Programme.

*It's desolate now but Gerald Testar foresees the main television studio humming with people and equipment within a year.*







*Kaz Piesowocki, far right, moves with his third-year class.*

## WHOLE LOT OF MOVING

Within a musty old room in a remote corner of "P" Hut, dozens of inspired feet leap around each day.

These feet used to be made of clay and the bodies they bear much less elegant in motion before they came under the instruction of movement maestro Kaz Piesowocki.

Mr. Piesowocki teaches movement to first, second and third-year Theatre students, but he also happens to be a top-rate mime artist, ballet dancer and acrobat — skills which automatically soar out of him when he is teaching students how to dramatically express moods and feelings through their bodies.

Before moving to Vancouver City College in 1966 and then to UVic in 1969, he was a member for four years of the internationally-acclaimed Polish Mime Theatre. Prior to that he was an acrobatic dancer with a circus ("curiosity and good pay drew me to this kind of life") after graduation from the Warsaw State Ballet School.

He chose mime over a career in ballet because the latter "was too strict in terms of form, and with the Mime Theatre there was complete freedom of movement."

In his first-year class, Mr. Piesowocki teaches the basics of dramatic motion, such as how a peasant or an aristocrat or a nervous person moves. In second year, emotional buildup and how to break between moves, and in third year, mainly analysis of the structure of motion.

He puts students through physical exercises and has them dance or move in stylized or synchronized patterns, which are a wonder to behold.

Mr. Piesowocki said it is his impression Canadian students are in poorer physical

condition than Europeans. When he starts with a class, many are unable to do simple exercises without straining themselves. "But in about three months' time I have them in top shape and doing motions they once thought were impossible to do with their bodies."

Mr. Piesowocki recently gave his third-year students a challenging thesis by having them each portray the seven stages of death.

He had read an article by a doctor who observed that these stages are clearly recognizable in every patient he had who was dying of cancer.

These stages are shock, denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance and finally detachment. "The outcome was very interesting."

The public had a chance to see the talents of Mr. Piesowocki last spring when, with Professor John Krich, he

produced a new version of "Joan of Arc" with the emphasis on mime and motion.

He now wants to produce an original play where action would take place on trapezes, and (attention, Creative Writing) he is looking for someone who will write a script for him.

"I would write it myself but I would have to have it translated from Polish."

He said that as long as he teaches he won't perform himself as a mime artist. "It takes too much time to prepare for a performance, and besides I have the suspicion that, because of the healthy competitiveness of performers, I would hold back in teaching so I would have something extra over my students in trying to be the best performer."

Kaz Piesowocki doesn't hold back in teaching. In class, he is an ongoing flood of motion and communication.

*Bodies which once groaned now supple beyond students' expectations.*





## EDUCATION

Dr. John Downing, noted child reading expert, has left campus for a series of speaking engagements in South America.

On December 12, he spoke to the Panama Canal Zone Council of the International Reading Association at Cristobal on "The Young Child's Concepts of Language and Reading".

He will speak on December 16 to the Interamerican Congress of Psychology at Bogotá, Columbia on "Prejuicios estereotipados sobre la aptitud relativa de los sexos en el aprendizaje de la lectura". He will also address a seminar co-sponsored by the International Council of Psychologists on "Learning literacy skills in English and Spanish".

Dr. Downing will lecture teachers of an English course at Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá on December 17 on "Teaching reading in a second language".

While in Bogotá he will speak to the British Council Library on December 18 on "Métodos informales de hoy en las escuelas primarias inglesas", and to the Instituto de Bienestar Familiar on "La comprensión en la lectura y su enseñanza a los niños".

## ENGLISH

Department Chairman David L. Jeffrey has had an article entitled "Conclusion and the Form of the Personal in Modern Poetry" accepted for publication in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

Dr. Jeffrey recently gave a paper at the University of British Columbia Medieval Conference. The paper, "Franciscan Spirituality and the Emergence of Popular Culture in the late Middle Ages", has been invited for publication by *Viator*.



SYDNEY G. PETTIT . . . returns to lecture

## DISTINCTIVE COURSE

Sydney G. Pettit, Professor Emeritus of History, will emerge from retirement to give a distinctive series of lectures for Continuing Education called "Kings, Queens, Captains and Courtesans".

The ten lectures, to be held each Wednesday starting January 29, will give special attention to Frederick the Great, Louis XV, Pompadour, Maria Theresa, Elizabeth and Catherine, George II, Chatham, Wolfe and Clive. Problems such as the claim of Frederick to greatness, and the role of Pompadour in politics will be considered.

Professor Pettit taught at UVic and Victoria College for 35 years before retiring in 1972. These are his first lectures since then.

The lectures will run between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. in Clearihue 132. Fee is \$15.

## COMING EVENTS

### FRIDAY, December 13

2:00pm Meeting Faculty of Arts and Science. Elliott 167.

### SATURDAY, December 14

2:15pm Soccer. UVic Stadium. Second Round Jackson Cup.

3:00pm Children's Xmas Party. Faculty Club. Faculty Women's Club annual children's Xmas party. Faculty Club members are invited to bring their children between the ages of three and six.

7:15pm Cinecenta Films. MacLaurin 144. "Christmas Glitz for Fun (and for free)". Also "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" (1972) and "Christmas Carol" (animated).

### SUNDAY, December 15

7:15pm UVic Film Society. MacLaurin 144. John Ford's "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon" plus Howard Hawks' "Twentieth Century". Students: \$1.25; General: \$1.75.

### WEDNESDAY, December 18

3:30pm Meeting, Faculty of Graduate Studies. Cornett 158.

8:00pm Meeting, University Women's Club. Gold Room 208, Craigdarroch College. Christmas Party.

### THURSDAY, December 19

12:30pm Meeting, Faculty of Fine Arts. MacLaurin 191.

### FRIDAY, December 20

2:30pm Meeting, Faculty of Education. MacLaurin 169.



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## AROUND THE RING

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